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NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The attached letters dated 17 August 1991 were addressed by the Secretary-General to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Secretary of State of the United States of America, respectively.

Annex I

Letter dated 17 August 1991 from the Secretary-General addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

I am writing in reply to your joint letter with the United States Secretary of State of 1 August 1991, transmitted to me on 14 August, which in particular refers to the negotiations under my auspices to solve the conflict in El Salvador. I very much appreciate your expressions of support for my efforts on El Salvador, and I take note of your urging me to take personal leadership of the negotiating process.

As I indicated to you on 7 August, in reference to the 1 August U.S.-Soviet communiqué on the same subject, I fully intend to continue my active engagement in the Salvadorean peace negotiations. I need hardly say that Mr. Alvaro de Soto, as my personal representative, acts entirely on my behalf and with my full support, and I am therefore constantly and fully engaged in the process. I stand prepared to become involved directly and personally again, as I have done in several instances, most recently in Guadalajara. My personal participation in direct negotiating rounds is an option which has always existed and which remains open for consideration at the appropriate time and assuming that the level of representation of the two sides justifies such participation.

On 7 August I advised you of a number of concrete ideas regarding the current critical juncture in the negotiations and the way in which you could be of assistance in helping me to cut the Gordian knot now facing the process. The problems bedevilling the negotiation are not, in my view, of a methodological nature. As has been demonstrated on several occasions during this process, including in Mexico last April, great strides are possible without my being physically present at direct meetings. Direct meetings are indeed only a relatively small part of the negotiating process. There are, however, fundamental issues which must be grappled with in order to go beyond the success so far achieved, and specifically to obtain a cease-fire. These are the subject of Mr. de Soto's shuttling between President Cristiani and the FMLN commanders during the past and coming weeks.

I noted with particular pleasure the offer contained in your joint communiqué to play an active and constructive role in supporting the talks and implementing accords on a final settlement. I therefore very much look forward to receiving your reaction to the ideas which I have presented.

(Signed) Javier PEREZ de CUELLAR

Annex II

Letter dated 17 August 1991 from the Secretary-General addressed to the Secretary of State of the United States of America

I am writing in reply to your joint letter with the Soviet Foreign Minister of 1 August 1991, transmitted to me on 14 August, which in particular refers to the negotiations under my auspices to solve the conflict in El Salvador. I very much appreciate your expressions of support for my efforts on El Salvador, and I take note of your urging me to take personal leadership of the negotiating process.

As I indicated to you on 7 August, in reference to the 1 August U.S.-Soviet communiqué on the same subject, I fully intend to continue my active engagement in the Salvadorean peace negotiations. I need hardly say that Mr. Alvaro de Soto, as my personal representative, acts entirely on my behalf and with my full support, and I am therefore constantly and fully engaged in the process. I stand prepared to become involved directly and personally again, as I have done in several instances, most recently in Guadalajara.

My personal participation in direct negotiating rounds is an option which has always existed and which remains open for consideration at the appropriate time and assuming that the level of representation of the two sides justifies such participation. I trust that for this purpose there would be no difficulty in ensuring the presence at United Nations Headquarters of members of the FMLN General Command, even on short notice.

On 7 August I advised you of a number of concrete ideas regarding the current critical juncture in the negotiations and the way in which you could be of assistance in helping me to cut the Gordian knot now facing the process. The problems bedevilling the negotiation are not, in my view, of a methodological nature. As has been demonstrated on several occasions during this process, including in Mexico last April, great strides are possible without my being physically present at direct meetings. Direct meetings are indeed only a relatively small part of the negotiating process. There are, however, fundamental issues which must be grappled with in order to go beyond the success so far achieved, and specifically to obtain a cease-fire. These are the subject of Mr. de Soto's shuttling between President Cristiani and the FMLN commanders during the past and coming weeks.

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